

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2804

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FOR: ARA/PAF, INFO S/PRS, INFO USIA, ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: VE, PE, BR, CO, CS, OVIP

SUBJECT: PRESS QUESTIONS RE SECRETARY'S TRIP

REF: STATE 028639

1. FOLLOWING IS LIST OF POSSIBLE GENERAL SUBJECT AREAS SECRETARY MAY BE ASKED TO COMMENT ON BY LOCAL PRESS: PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS; CUBA-ANGOLA AND EFFECT ON U.S.-CUBAN THAW; U.S. ELECTIONS AND HOW THEY AFFECT OUR FOREIGN POLICY; STATUS OF MID-EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS; U.S. SUPPORT OF TAIWAN IN THE LIGHT OF CLOSER AMERICAN-PRC TIES; CHILE, THE CIA AND THE SECRETARY'S ROLE IN ALLENDE COLLAPSE (ANDRES PASCAL ALLENDE, THE EX-PRESIDENT'S NEPHEW, IS PRESENTLY IN COSTA RICA); U.S. VIEW TOWARDS THE BELIZE QUESTION; THE STATUS OF DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION; U.S. VIEWS ON STRICTLY LATIN AMERICAN GROUPINGS-IE-SELA.

2. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS OF A BILATERAL NATURE WILL LIKELY BE ASKED OF THE SECRETARY:

Q) WILL THE U.S. TRY TO EXTRADITE ROBERT VESCO AGAIN?

A) ROBERT VESCO IS A FUGITIVE FROM U.S. JUSTICE. HE HAS BEEN INDICTED ON CRIMINAL COUNTS BY FEDERAL GRAND JURIES FIVE TIMES. WE WOULD LIKE HIM TO RETURN TO THE U.S. SO THAT THE QUESTION OF HIS INNOCENCE OR GUILT

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CAN BE ESTABLISHED BY U.S. COURTS. IF HE DOES

NOT RETURN VOLUNTARILY, OR IS NOT EXPELLED BY COSTA RICA WE WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO EXTRADITE HIM BY STRICTLY LEGAL MEANS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR EXTRADITION TREATY. (IF SPECIFICALLY ASKED ABOUT EFFECTS OF C.R. EXTRADITION LAW, SECRETARY SHOULD INDICATE THAT LAW DOES POSE AN OBSTACLE).

Q) IS THE UNITED STATES GOING TO INCREASE COSTA RICA'S MEAT QUOTA?

A) WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF COSTA RICA'S IMPORTANCE AS AN EXPORTER OF BEEF TO THE UNITED STATES. THE RESTRAINT LEVELS UNDER THE U.S. VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM FOR BEEF IMPORTS HAVE (HAVE NOT YET) BEEN AGREED UPON FOR 1976. RESTRAINT LEVELS ARE OFTEN ADJUSTED IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, PARTICULARLY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SHORT FALLS IN SHIPMENTS FROM SOME SUPPLIER COUNTRIES. LAST YEAR THE COSTA RICAN QUOTA WAS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE FINAL LEVEL FOR THIS YEAR WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO MAKE 1976 A GOOD YEAR FOR THE COSTA RICAN BEEF INDUSTRY.

Q) THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE SOME TIME AGO TO EXPLAIN THE GREAT BENEFITS COSTA RICA WILL RECEIVE UNDER GSP (GENERAL SPECIALIZED PREFERENCES). NOW OUR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON TELLS US THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE AND THAT ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF OUR PRODUCTS WILL BE AFFECTED AND THAT THIS LOOKS MORE AND MORE LIKE A PROTECTIONIST TRADE POLICY. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THIS?

A) THE U.S. GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES WAS CREATED IN RESPONSE TO LONGSTANDING REQUESTS FROM L.A. COUNTRIES. IT WILL BENEFIT MANY CURRENT EXPORTS OF COSTA RICA AND OF OTHER L.A. COUNTRIES, BUT ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO STIMULATE CREATION OF NEW INDUSTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND IN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THAT WILL BE CAPABLE OF EXPORTING TO THE UNITED STATES. COSTA RICA, AS A COUNTRY WITH THE ADVANTAGES OF A FAVORABLE INVESTMENT CLIMATE, AN EDUCATED AND SKILLED LABOR FORCE, AND PROXIMITY TO THE U.S. MARKET, SHOULD BE IN AN ESPECIALLY GOOD POSITION TO BENEFIT FROM THE GSP SYSTEM. IF COSTA RICA CREATED NEW INDUSTRIES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPORT TO THE U.S. UNDER THE GSP SYSTEM, THE PRODUCTS OF THOSE INDUSTRIES WILL ENTER THE U.S. DUTY FREE, WHILE COMPETING PRODUCTS FROM INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO PAY DUTIES. THE INTENT IS TO GIVE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AN ADVANTAGE IN TRADING IN THE IMPORTANT U.S. MARKET.

Q) IT HAS BEEN CHARGED HERE THAT THE U.S., THROUGH THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION, SUPPORTS A LEFTIST NEWSPAPER

(PUEBLO) AND ALSO SUPPORTS A COMMUNIST-RUN AND LEFTIST-ORIENTED SCHOOL OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY WHICH IS STUDYING AND ORGANIZING PEASANTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. ARE YOU AWARE OF THIS AND IF SO ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SUCH LEFTIST ACTIVITIES?

A) THE INTERAMERICAN FOUNDATION WAS CREATED BY AN ACT OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, TO FUNCTION IN LATIN AMERICA. IT IS EMPOWERED TO SELECT THE PROJECTS IT FUNDS. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT HAS NO VETO POWER OVER THE SELECTION PROCESS. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY IN PROJECT SELECTION WITH THE FOUNDATION AND HOPE TO BE ABLE TO AVOID SUCH PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE.
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